Cultivable Land

*233. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 181 million hectares of land is cultivable out of the total geographical area (320 million hectares);

(b) if so, the reasons for cultivating less land togetherwith details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of uncultivated land that has been converted into cultivable land in the last five years and how much expenditure has been incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the Nine-fold Land Use Classification of Ministry of Agriculture, out of 329 million hectares (total geographical area of the country), 183.5 million hectares is cultivable land. This includes 141.2 million hectares net sown area, 14.8 million hectares under current fallows, 10.1 million hectares under fallow lands other than current fallows, 13.8 million hectares area under culturable wasteland and 3.6 million hectare land under miscellaneous tree crops.

The balance area falls under different land uses such as forest, permanent pastures, other grazing lands, barren and unculturable land, and area under non-agricultural uses like buildings, roads, railways, rivers, canals, other water bodies etc. which can not be converted into cultivable land except at exorbitant cost.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) provides funds for the treatment of problem lands under 3 schemes. Similarly, the Department of Land Resources, under the Ministry of Rural Development provides funds for the treatment of land, based on a watershed approach which also covers degraded lands, pastures and forest lands which falls within the watershed. The physical and financial achievements under these schemes are placed at Statement I & II (see below). When completed, these schemes will lead to a reduction in the area considered uncultivable. However, such treated area does not all come under cultivation. Some of it goes towards increase in forest coverage, pasture land, non-agricultural uses, etc.

Statement-I

Total area treated under problem lands (DoAC)/sanctioned under Area Development Programmes (DoLR)

(in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	Scheme	1999-2000 Phy.	2000-01 Phy.	2001-02 Phy.	2002-03 Phy.	2003-04 Phy.	Total Phy.
	Schemes under Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agril. & Cooperation)						
1.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils	0.1919	0.1445	0.03	0.2244	0.2092	0.80
2.	Soil Conservation Scheme in River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)	3.0208	2.2941	1.6323	2.0403	1.79	10.78
3.	Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) for North Eastern States	0.27961	0.30774	0.22005	0.19336	0.20082	1.20
	TOTAL:	3.49231	2.74634	1.88	2.46	2.20	12.78
	Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (Deptt. of Land Resources)						
1.	Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)	7.0132	11.0401	7.98	3.3552	10.065	39.45
2.	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	11.39	16.86	10.26	12.39	12.68	63.57
3.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	7.50	8.30	6.80	8.01	7.81	38.41
	Total:	25.9032	36.1901	25.03	23.76	30.55	141.43

Statement-II

Funds allotted for treatment of problem lands (DoAC)/Area Development Programme (DoLR)

(Financial Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Scheme	1998-2000 Fin.	2000-01 Fin.	2001-02 Fin.	2002-03 Fin.	2003-04 Fin.	Total Fin.
	Schemes under Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agril. & Cooperation)						
1.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils	322.50	152.00	340.00	805.750	548.28	2168.53
2.	Soil Conservation Scheme in River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP &FPR)	12656.25	11447.07	10310.85	11995.37	11665.99	45419.28
3.	Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) for North Eastern States	1683.15	1797.87	1535.19	1967.25	2121.39	9104.85
	TOTAL:	2005.65	13396.94	12186.04	14796.37	14335.66	56692.66
	Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (Deptt. of Land Resources)						
1.	Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)	8307.42	12977.97	18599.53	26793.150	30654.64	97332.71
2.	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	9500.00	19000.01	20951.62	25000.00	29500	103951.63
3.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	6500.00	13499.79	15003.00	18500.00	21500.00	77002.79
	TOTAL:	26307.42	45477.77	54554.15	70293.15	81654.64	278287.13